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# SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1902.

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## THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION.

THE situation that confronts the Carnegie Institution seems to me this: We do not desire a break with the historical development; the energies which have brought about the rise of American scholarship to the present level must work toward its further advance. We are bound to the special conditions and limits of those energies if we do not wish to lose their benefits. Their characteristics, it seems to me, are determined by two factors, utterly unknown, for instance, in Germany. First, the supporting activity in the periphery of the national circle as over against the German governmental support. In Germany the aid came in centrifugal paths, in America in centripetal ones. Secondly, the order of the five hundred higher educational institutions in a sliding scale as over against the sharp demarcation lines of German schools and universities. These two factors belong of course together; both were necessary under the conditions of American history, and their influence must not be impaired, but rather turned to use in planning new progress.

For our concrete question the first factor, the activity in the periphery, seems to me to work in a negative way, as a limitation on all those plans which suggest themselves at the first glance. Everywhere we see departments, laboratories, whole institutions,